

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

" the few who remained faithful to him to the last was Messer Tommaso Petrarca, the steadfast friend of all her spiritual fellowship.

Ignoring the claims of the rival College at Avignon, fourteen cardinals at Rome, on November 2, elected a successor to Urban

the person of the Cardinal of Naples, Pietro Tomacelli, a

•udent and virtuous man, who took the name of Boniface IX. five years later, on September 16, 1394, Clement VII died at Avignon. On September 28, Pedro de Luna, through whose influence, supported by the eloquence of Vincent Ferrer, Aragon, Castile, and Navarre had been drawn from their neutrality to embrace the Clementine faith, was elected his successor, and •sumed the title of Benedict XIII. He had previously taken a oath that he would abdicate, if the majority of the Sacred College should deem this the way to restore unity to the Church, 'never elected, however, all the efforts of the French court and the vehement assaults of the University of Paris failed to make him carry out this pledge. An united embassy from England, France, and Castile, in the summer of 1397, drew from him nothing but an evasive answer. Deserted by his own cardinals, and besieged in the papal palace of Avignon in 1398, he was at last moved to surrender his claims to be the sole vicar of Christ than he was to take any vengeance upon his enemies, or to exult in his triumph, when, in 1403, his cardinals returned and the kingdom of France once more acknowledged him as Pope. Always gracious and magnanimous, never yielding to excess of anger or exhibiting vindictive feelings, still, to all appearances, as devout and edifying a man as when he had attracted the sympathy of Catherine and her "servants of God," Benedict remained unshaken in his resolution not to resign the Papacy, save in his own way and at his own time. On the other side, Boniface was no less irreconcilable ; his answer to the united embassies of the three Kings had been equally evasive and unsatisfactory; and, for the rest, he was

•ccupied in restoring the temporal power of the Papacy, which, to a large extent, he effected by destroying the liberties of the

